

## Rising Star: Crowell & Moring's Peter Eyre

By Maria Chutchian

*Law360, New York (April 02, 2013, 1:44 PM ET)* -- Whether he is counseling corporations specializing in health care, technology or financial services, Crowell & Moring LLP's Peter Eyre is known for his deft and thorough counsel to key government contractors, making him one of the five young government contracts attorneys recently recognized by Law360.

Eyre, who was promoted to partner in January, has been with the firm since 2005 and lands on Law360's Rising Star list for the top attorneys under 40 for the first time this year. His practice is divided into three areas: internal investigations and complex corporate internal reviews, bid protests and disputes between prime contractors and subcontractors, and counseling government contractors on day-to-day issues.

In addition to representing companies in the health care, technology and financial services industries, Eyre also works with those in the areas of construction, education, aerospace and defense and the environment, among others. His counsel is often sought on government contract matters worth several million and billions of dollars.

In July, he was a key part of the Crowell team that defended UnitedHealth Military & Veterans Services when its award of a Department of Defense TRICARE Management Activity contract worth more than \$20 billion was challenged by another prospective contractor. The contract was for a comprehensive managed health care program for military personnel and retirees and their spouses and children.

The challenger protested nearly every part of the evaluation process, including technical, cost, past performance and responsibility, and asked the U.S. Government Accountability Office to pressure the government into disqualifying United from the competition. GAO rejected the protest and United held onto the lucrative contract.

Eyre also helped run the show for the defense of ManTech Telecommunications and Information Systems Corp.'s \$3 billion contract for mine resistant ambush protected vehicle logistics sustainment and support services. ManTech's win was protested by CLS Worldwide, but in September, GAO once again decided in favor of Crowell's client.

While Eyre's work in bid protests before the GAO gets all the glory, he says some of his most important work occurs behind the scenes on complex, confidential matters.

"I think the most interesting and exciting and important successes have been in working with companies to identify and resolve concerns and issues," he said.

These include problems that could result in a company's exclusion from future government contracts, he said. For example, Eyre last year worked with a major corporation and significant government contractor that discovered the product it told the government it was going to sell it was not actually what the contractor had said it would be. Eyre was able to help the company take remedial action to fix the problem and avoid any public showdown.

"Once a contractor is told 'no more contracts,' the clock is ticking and they need to find a way to resolve the issue and show the government that they have taken steps and are presently responsible," he said.

Eyre, who came to Crowell immediately after graduating from Harvard Law School, worked for several years before embarking on his legal career. He worked for the Commission on Presidential Debates during the 2000 election, a startup company, and then was the dean of students at a large summer school.

Eyre has provided pro bono service to the National Democratic Institute. He assisted the Trinidad and Tobago Debates Commission with the coordination of the country's first democratic debate following the Prime Minister's dissolution of the national government in April 2010.

As a young partner, Eyre says he is fortunate to be able to learn from his more experienced colleagues. He advises other young attorneys to take a page out of his book and find a mentor that they can trust and receive candid feedback from.

"I have a number of people who I count on daily for advice about how to be a better lawyer and how to learn this practice area better," he said. "That's something I find really valuable."

--Editing by Rebecca Flanagan.

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